during 1993 & 1994-95 against the outstanding amount of Rs. 245.37 crores. Attempts to recover the remianing amount constitute an ongoing process.

Approval for Branch Expansion and licencing to Public Sector Banks

1702. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given approval to the public sector banks for branch expansion and licencing without seeking approval of Reserve Bank of India;

(b) the details of such Public sector banks;

(c) what criteria have been adopted for granting the autonomy to these banks;

(d) whether any of these banks have submitted their expansion palns; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that Indian Commercial Banks which fulfil the following criteria are given freedom to open branches without prior approval from RBI for each branch:

(1) Capital to Risk Assets Ratio (CRAR) at 8% or more.

(2) NPA not more than 15% of total outstanding loans and advances.

(3) Owned Funds above Rs. 100 crores.

(4) Net profit for three consecutive years.

In such cases the banks are advised to submit an Action Plan for one year for, opening all types of branches (General) as well as specialised taking into consideration the broad national policy objectives. Once the plan is approved by RBI, the banks can open branches. However, the bank have to obtain licences under Section 23 of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 from RBI's Regional Office before opening the branches. The following Public Sector banks have so far been given freedom to open branches as they have complied with the above criteria:

1. Oriental Bank of Commerce
2. Corporation Bank
3. Canara Bank
4. Union Bank of India.

As per the action plan submitted by these banks and approved by RBI the total number of branches to be opened by them is as under:—

1.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	-	146*
2.	Corporation Bank	-	72
3.	Canara Bank	-	155**
4.	Union Bank of India	-	72

Raids by Income Tax Authorities on cinema stars

1703. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Income Tax authorities have recently raided the premises of a number of top cinema stars in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the outcome of these raids stating the income tax amount due from each of these cine stars; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes sir. In the recent past the Income-tax Authorities at Mumbai have conducted searches in the case of 22 film/ film connected personalities including 6

*Proposal for 5 centres kept in abeyance due to clarification regarding population group-wise classification.

**Additional request for 122 centres received from the bank being examined.

film starts. The searches conducted resulted in seizure of assets worth Rs. 199.06 lac.

(c) Necessary action as per Direct Tax Laws has been taken in the matter.

References received by RBI from BIFR

1704. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) references recieved by Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India till 31st March, 1996 from BIFR, constituted under the provision of SICA;

(b) number of cases where BIFR appointed India as Operating Agency till 23rd January, 1997; and

(c) whether IRBI under the name IIBI would continue to act as operating agency in the above cases for preparation of rehabilitation packages; if not, the alternative agency to carry out the same.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Industrial reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) has reported that it has received 1241 references from the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) till 31.03.1996.

(b) IRBI was appointed operating agency by the BIFR in 327 cases till 23.04.1997.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Loans to the Farmers of Punjab

1705. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total amount of loans granted to the farmers for agricultural purpose in the country particularly in the state of Punjab during the last three years, distrist-wise; and

(b) the details of the total amount of loans granted out of it to the persens belonging to the Secheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and other weaker sections of the society in the state of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the total amount of loans granted by commercial banks udner Agriculture Credit Plans (ACP) for agriculture and allied activities during the last three years was as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

1993-94	14121.79
1994-95	16884.74
1995-96	18835.99

The district-wise data for the state of Punjab, as reported by RBI, is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

District	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4
Amritsar	22.31	27.90	33.78
Bathinda	21.29	30.62	40.00
Fategarh Sahib	11.86	14.29	17.22
Faridkot	51.60	71.19	74.46
Ferozepur	30.11	28.92	45.72
Gurdaspur	14.14	15.76	18.43
Hoshiarpur	19.24	20.01	31.63
Jalandhar	39.72	41.51	62.50